


ADDRESS

OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF

THE PRESTON RETREAT,

TO THE

CITIZENS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA.

AND

COUNTY OF DELAWARE.



PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY MERRIHEW AND GUNN.

.....
1836.



A D D R E S S, & c.



*To the Citizens of the City and County of Philadelphia and the
County of Delaware.*

FELLOW CITIZENS :—The late Dr. Jonas Preston, with the good sense and benevolence which so distinguished him throughout a long and very useful life, was impressed with a conviction that the charity most needed at present in Philadelphia was a well established Lying-in-Hospital for Indigent Married Females of good character. He was not ignorant of the provision made for this purpose by the Pennsylvania Hospital, nor of the partial relief extended to it from other quarters, but these he knew, though praise-worthy in the highest degree, and as efficacious in their administration as their plan would allow, were yet but incidental and limited, being parts, and only subordinate parts, of an extended scheme of humanity unavoidably imperfect and inadequate. His observation, always accurate and just, doubtless led him to the conclusion, that the time was come for establishing a foundation of which this should be the sole object, and where undivided attention should be directed to alleviate the pain and weakness, and to guard against the dangers which accompany the critical moments of childbirth. His views in this respect are not to be supposed to imply any reproach whatever to existing institutions ; but on the contrary, according to their means, and with reference to the large and various demands of human affliction upon their benevolent exertions, they deserve our admiration and gratitude for what they have accomplished, as well as for the example they have set before us of a spirit of charity, which, if it had possessed the power, would have spread its healthy influence over the whole circle of misery. No one knew their merits better than our deceased friend, nor bore a stronger testimony in their favour. He felt, as we do, that

the same Christian philanthropy which originated and has supported their benevolent efforts, would rejoice that one object of their concern has been placed under a separate provision, thus increasing their ability to provide for the rest, and giving them a new associate in the community of beneficence. The objects of our deceased friend, however, will be best understood by quoting his own simple, but affecting and beautiful language. In his last will, dated the 12th day of the Fifth month, 1835, after various bequests, he proceeds as follows :

“ITEM: It has long been my opinion that there ought be a Lying-in-Hospital in the city of Philadelphia, for indigent married women of good character, distinct and unconnected with any other Hospital, where they may be received and provided with proper obstetric aid for their delivery, and with suitable attendance and comforts during the period of weakness and susceptibility which ensues, continuing ordinarily about four weeks. I have no doubt that there is often much suffering and loss of life in such cases, from the effects of ignorance and destitution, and I think an establishment for affording the required assistance well deserves a place among the numerous charities which attest the Christian philanthropy that characterizes Philadelphia. Under this conviction, and to contribute what may be in my power to supply the want, with a firm belief that our Blessed Lord will cause the work to prosper, so that the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the expectations of the poor perish for ever, I do, hereby, give, devise, and bequeath, all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, real and personal, whatsoever and wheresoever, (excepting my silver vase, presented to me by the stockholders of the Schuylkill Navigation Company,) to my executors hereinafter named, to have and to hold to them, their heirs, executors and administrators in trust, for the following uses and purposes; that is to say, that they, the said executors, and the survivors of them, and the heirs, executors and administrators of such survivors, shall receive the income of the real estate, and the said income, as received, shall hold and dispose of as follows: that is to say, the same shall be invested, and the income of the personal shall also be invested from time to time, so as to accumulate until a Lying-in-Hospital shall be established and incorporated upon a plan embracing the outline contained in a paper marked A, and signed with my name, in such a manner as to give assurance

of its permanency and respectability, and then and immediately thereafter to convey, assign, and transfer the whole of the said estate, both real and personal, to such corporation absolutely and in fee simple, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining the Lying-in-Hospital ; and to avoid all doubt or question, I hereby give to the trustees or trustee aforesaid, for the time being, a full discretion as to investments, not limiting them to stocks or securities, which by law or by practice, are deemed the proper ones, but leaving them to judge which are most like to prove advantageous, without any responsibility for loss."

A copy of the plan referred to will be found annexed. In pursuance of this bequest and in conformity with the plan made, a part of it by the testator, a society was established, and has been incorporated by an act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania with the title of "The Preston Retreat;" the corporation has been duly organized by the election of officers, a list of whom is hereunto subjoined, and the President and Managers are proceeding as rapidly as is consistent with due attention to the nature of the undertaking, to carry into effect the design of the donor: they have agreed for the purchase of a suitable lot of ground and are making arrangements for the erection of buildings. With this exposition, to enable our fellow citizens to estimate for themselves the claim which this institution may have upon their attention and patronage, we now respectfully invite their contributions and their aid. The endowment of our deceased friend, whose worthy name it bears, is indeed munificent, and by its amount, as well as by the judicious application he has made of it, entitles him to be remembered as one of the greatest benefactors of Philadelphia, rich as she has been in works of charity and mercy ; but estimating as he did the value of such a foundation, and desirous, as he must have been, that it should be on a scale commensurate with its merits, and we may add, with the character of our city, he could not but believe that kindred views and feelings would generally prevail, and that this, his only child, considerate, kind, and gentle as its parent, would like him conciliate the regard of all to whom it should be known.

By order of the Board of Managers.

JOHN SERGEANT, *President.*

HENRY C. CORBIT, *Secretary.*

Philad. 9th month (September) 5, 1836.

PAPER A.

OUTLINE OF A PLAN FOR A LYING-IN-HOSPITAL.

1. The management of the Hospital shall be committed to Managers to be chosen annually by the contributors, aided by a committee of respectable married females, to consist of not less than , to be named by the Managers.

2. The payment of dollars shall annually constitute a contributor, and the payment of dollars at one time, shall constitute a contributor for life.

3. The managers shall appoint the needful physicians, officers, and nurses, and fix their compensation, and at pleasure remove any of them, having especial respect, as well in appointments as in removals, for the opinion and advice of the committee of females.

4. The hospital shall be located at some suitable place within the following limits, viz : between the rivers Delaware and Schuylkill, and between Cedar street and Coates' street, continued to Schuylkill.

5. The persons to be admitted shall be married females of good character, and in indigent circumstances, who are near the time of their confinements ; they shall be received at such time as seems suitable, and maintained in the house for such period as the state of their health may require, but not in any case to exceed weeks after delivery, and be provided with whatever their situation may require free of expense. None, however, shall be received but such as at the time of application shall be resident in the city or county of Philadelphia, or county of Delaware, and shall produce satisfactory testimonials of character.

[Signed.]

JONAS PRESTON.

Fifth month, 12th, 1835.

MANAGERS.

John Sergeant	Michael M'Grath
Henry C. Corbit	Richard Oakford
Thomas Estlack	John M. Ogden
John U. Fraley	Richard Price
Jacob Frick	Philip M. Price
George Handy	George Smith, Del. co.
Samuel Haydock	Samuel Spackman
James Hutchinson	George Thomas
Edward King	Lewis Walton
James Martin	Henry J. Williams
William M. Meredith	William Wharton
James Mott	Benj. H. Yarnall.

President—JOHN SERGEANT.

Secretary—*Henry C. Corbit.*

Treasurer—*Eli K. Price.*

Auditors— $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textit{Joseph Warner,} \\ \textit{Thomas Firth.} \end{array} \right.$

FORM OF A BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to 'The Preston Retreat and its successors for ever, the sum of Dollars.

FORM OF A BEQUEST FOR THE RELIEF OF PATIENTS AT THEIR OWN HOUSES.

I give and bequeath to 'The Preston Retreat and its successors for ever, the sum of dollars, to be appropriated for the relief of Patients, or their children at their own houses. If the subject be Real Estate, use the term "devise," instead of "bequeath."

Donations will be received by the Treasurer, No. 309 Arch street, and by Jonathan Palmer, No. 29 North Fifth street, who is duly authorized to receive subscriptions and donations.

The following lines traced with a pencil, in the hand writing of Dr. Preston, were found among his papers.

"Whilst musing on this subject, I heard a voice within, saying, 'do all that is in thine heart, for God is with thee, and will cause the work to prosper.' The satisfaction of mind resulting from the residuary clause contained in this Testament, has taken from Death his sting, and from the Grave its victory: I die resigned, in meekness, having my hope placed in a merciful Redeemer."

ERRATA.

Page 4, first note, second line, read "lie" instead of "be."

Page 15, line seventeen from top, read "principle" instead of "principal."

Page 15, line twenty-six, insert "and" after "more work."

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